

Message Text

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17

ACTION AF-07

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-01

INR-05 NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 SP-02

CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 NSC-05 SS-15 STR-01

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R 031606Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1194

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PASS COMMERCE - MAJOR PROJECTS

EO 11652/ N/A

TAGS: BEXP, IV

SUBJ: PICKANDS-MATHER COSORTIUM MEETING, NOV 25-30, 1974

REF: ABIDJAN 8906

1. THE PICKANDS MATHER IRON ORE CONSORTIUM MET IN ABIDJAN THROUGH THE WEEK OF NOVEMBER 25 THAKING TWO DAYS TO VISIT MOUNT KLAHOYO, THE SITE OF THE IRON DEPOSIT. NEGOTIATIONS WERE DISCRIBED AS PROTRACTED AND ARDUOUS; HOWEVER, WHILE SOME ISSUES REMAIN UNRESOLVED WITHIN THE CONSORTIUM, THE LONG DRAWN OUT QUESTION OF PAPELINE VERSUS RAILROAD HAS BEEN SETTLED IN FAVOR OF RAILROAD.

2. REGARDING POINTS OF CONTENTION WITHIN THE CONSORTIUM THERE IS DISAGREEMENT CONCERNING THE MANAGEMENT FEES P.M. SEEKS AS WELL AS THEIR MANNER OF PAYMENT; THE JAPANSES ARE REPORTEDLY THE MOST VOCAL NEGOTIATORS IN THE FEE DISCUSSIONS. SINCE NEGOTIATIONS CONTINUED UNTIL EARLY SATURDAY MORNING NOV 30 AND HEALY AND BELL OF P/M DEPARTED ABIDJAN THAT SAME MORNING, EMBOFFS
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DIS NOT THAVE OCCASION TO DEBRIEF P/M REPS.)

3. THE CONSORTIUM AND THE GOIC HAVE DECIDED ON A RAILWAY FOR EVACUATION OF THE IRON (PRESUMABLE IN PELLET FOR.) SHIPMENT BY RAILROAD IS NOT TO COST THE CONSORTIUM MORE THAN ITS PROPOSED PIPELINE; HOWEVER, THE DETAILS OF THIS ARRANGEMENT ARE YET TO BE WORKED OUT.

4. THE CONSORTIUM IS EXPECTED TO CHOOSE AMONST FIVE FIRMS COMPETING FOR THE PRE-CONSTURCTION PHASE OF THE PROJECT WHICH HAS A BUDGET OF APPROXIMATELY 10 MILLION DOLLARS.

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